



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/500,224	02/08/2000	Takeshi Misawa	1982-0143P	2273

7590                  08/03/2004

Birch Stewart Kolasch & Birch LLP  
P O Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER
----------

AGGARWAL, YOGESH K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2615	6

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/500,224	MISAWA, TAKESHI
	Examiner Yogesh K Aggarwal	Art Unit 2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 February 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities:

“the protecting means” should be “the protecting cover”.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claim 1, 7, 14, 12, 19, 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oswal (US Patent # 6,181,883).

[Claim 1]

Oswal teaches a method of recycling a digital camera (figure 5) which includes a communication section (figure 5: 78), comprising outputting image data from the communication section to an external device (docking station) and covering the communication section portion of the digital camera with a removable protecting means (figure 5: 76) and which is removed at times when

the image data is output, the protecting means substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section (col. 8 lines 34-40),

wherein, after the protecting means is removed and the image data is taken out from the communication section, the communication section is once again covered by the protecting means, thereby resetting the communication section [When the hinged cover 76 is closed after the data is taken out the camera is reset for taking more pictures].

[Claim 7]

Oswal teaches a digital camera (figure 5) comprising a communication section (figure 5: 78) which outputs image data to an external device (docking station) and a removable protecting means (figure 5: 76) which covers the communication section of the digital camera and which is removed at times when the image data is output, thereby resetting the communication section, the protecting means substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section (col. 8 lines 34-40) [When the hinged cover 76 is closed after the data is taken out the camera is reset for taking more pictures].

[Claim 14]

Oswal teaches a digital camera comprising a communication section which outputs image data to an external device, and a removable protecting cover which covers the communication section (figure 7B: 724) and which is removed at times when the image data is output, thereby resetting the communication section, the protecting means substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section (col. 8 lines 34-40) [When the hinged cover 76 is closed after the data is taken out the camera is reset for taking more pictures].

[Claim 12]

Oswal teaches wherein said communication section (figure 5: 78) is formed integrally with a body of the digital camera, and is a window whose transmission of data to and receipt of data from an external device is controlled by a CPU (figure 5, col. 8 lines 34-40).

[Claim 19]

This claim is identical to claim 12. Therefore it has been analyzed and rejected based upon claim 12.

[Claims 21-23]

Oswal teaches that the communication section can also transmit images wirelessly through infrared radiation (col. 8 lines 46-50).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 15, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oswal (US Patent # 6,181,883) in view of Etoh et al. (US Patent # 5,959,671).

[Claim 2]

Oswal teaches a removable protecting cover which covers the communication section but fails to teach “.... charging terminals for charging a power source when the camera is set on an adapter”. However Etoh et al. discloses charging terminals for charging a rechargeable battery when the camera body is set on an adapter as disclosed in figure 3 and 4. Therefore taking the combined teachings of Oswal and Etoh it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of

the invention to have been motivated to have a charging terminals for charging a power source in order to charge the camera battery when the camera battery by placing the camera in an AC adapter when the camera is not in use as taught in Etoh (col. 7 lines 29-34).

Re Claims 8 and 15 these claims are identical to claim 2. Therefore they have been analyzed and rejected based upon claim 2.

[Claim 4]

Oswal teaches a removable protective door for protecting means and Etoh teaches a protective AC adapter for charging terminals can be read as a protection film, which wraps up the communication section and the charging terminals.

Re Claims 10, 17 these claims are identical to claim 4. Therefore they have been analyzed and rejected based upon claim 3.

7. Claims 3, 9, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oswal (US Patent # 6,181,883) in view of Ando (US Patent # 6,304,724).

[Claim 3]

Oswal fails to teach “.... wherein said protecting means is a sheet shaped member which is elastic”. However these limitations are well known in the art as taught in Ando (col. 4 lines 26-35, figure 11: 14)[The rubber gasket (elastic) is provided on a door 12 used for housing a battery. Although the camera shown is a film one, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to use the same concept in digital cameras as they are provided with a battery chamber too]. Therefore taking the combined teachings of Oswal and Ando, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to have protecting means that is sheet

shaped member, which is elastic like rubber. The benefit of doing so would be to have a watertight and light tight seal as taught in Ando (col. 4 lines 30-35).

Re Claims 9, 16 these claims are identical to claim 3. Therefore they have been analyzed and rejected based upon claim 3.

8. Claims 5, 11, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oswal (US Patent # 6,181,883) in view of Hatori (JP Patent # 410042231A).

[Claim 5]

Oswal teaches the limitations of claim 1 but fails to teach “.... an indicating means for indicating that said protecting means was removed.” However these limitations are well known in the art as taught in Hatori [Hatori discloses in the solution of the abstract that switch means 106 is used to detect the open or closed state of the card cover 104 which is used to inhibit the insertion/detachment of the recording medium]. Therefore taking the combined teachings of Oswal and Hatori it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have an indicating means for indicating that said protecting means was removed. Doing so would allow to safely write and read data to/from a recording medium inserted to a digital camera as taught in Hatori (Abstract).

Re Claims 11 and 18 these claims are identical to claim 5. Therefore they have been analyzed and rejected based upon claim 5.

9. Claims 6,13, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oswal (US Patent # 6,181,883) in view of Hatori (JP Patent # 410042231A) as applied to claims 5, 11, 18 respectively in further view of Norris (US Patent # 4,523,825).

[Claim 6]

Oswal and Hatori fails to teach the limitations of claim 5 but fails to teach “.... wherein said indicating means is a "seal broken" mark which is exposed when the protecting means is removed”. However these limitations are well known in the art as taught in Norris (col. 2 lines 61-63). Therefore taking the combined teachings of Oswal, Hatori and Norris as a whole it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have an indicating means that is a "seal broken" mark which is exposed when the protecting means is removed. Doing so would allow protecting the security of the data contained in the communication device.

Re Claims 13 and 20 these claims are identical to claim 6. Therefore they have been analyzed and rejected based upon claim 6.

*Conclusion*

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh K Aggarwal whose telephone number is (703) 305-0346. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.

11. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YKA  
July 20, 2004



TUAN HO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER